

Title:

Chair with Three Legs

Artist/designer:

Markus Bergström

Project:

A chair designed and produced for the group show “Back2back” at Etage Projects in Copenhagen during the spring 2017, showing work by Klara Granstrand, Peter Shire, Markus Bergström, Fredrik Paulsen, Clemence Seilles, Silo Studio, Jerszy Seymour, Butternutten, Soft Baroque, Katja Pettersson, Martino Gamper and Michael Marriott. Curated by Fredrik Paulsen.

Publication:

Public exhibition at Etage Projects <http://www.etageprojects.com/back-2-back/>.
Shown and reviewed by Dennis Dahlqvist on SVT1 Kulturnyhetera, <https://www.svt.se/kultur/konst/stolar>

Description:

I was asked to contribute with a chair for a group show at Etage Projects in Copenhagen during spring 2017. As part in a larger study of pragmatism and nordic expressions in design I developed a chair that was related to a distant past, even possibly medieval, mixed with a contemporary idea about what scandinavian design is today. The idea for the chair was to challenge a consensual idea about scandinavian design and to reveal elements in the history of this narrow but famous category of furniture in order to show a greater complexity and richness in expression without trying to be ostentatious and provocative.

I attempted to reuse and again make relevant proportions and features from a vernacular tradition of furniture making in scandinavia that is not so often referred to today. The project is playful and improvisational in character but meant as a serious proposal for a modern commercial production furniture. Having talked to and visited some Swedish and Danish furniture producers for research purposes I was artistically as excited about how a chair is made in a sensible way in a modern production facility as with the final design result.

Being displayed next to pieces by Peter Shire and Martino Gamper among others the chair stood out by appearing restrained, conservative and linked to tradition rather than an artist's mind. The interest in production is a vital part of the nordic heritage where pragmatism and practicality often came before the designer's desire and vision.

For both ease of production and visual qualities the chair has got three legs which was not as unusual in the past. The central part of the construction is the seat ring that is made out of laminated birch, clad in rattan weave. The slab like legs are in oak and has gone through very little machining while the more demanding backrest is again in birch, laminated to a slight bend.



Back2back exhibition at Etage Projects, Copenhagen. Photo by David Stjernholm



Chair With Three Legs by Markus Bergström, photo by David Stjernholm



Chair With Three Legs by Markus Bergström together with Demountable Chair by Fredrik Paulsen. Photo by David Stjernholm